



On the Web and In Print

2003 is on its way, and we're working to provide you with the biggest and best OVR season ever.

If you've checked www.ovr.org over the summer you've undoubtedly noticed its new design. Gone is the information overload of last spring's entry page: that list format is still available, expanded, as the Site Index, replaced by a simplified interface on entry. The search engine is more sophisticated, and most of the site has been reworked to present information in ways that are as easy to use as possible. Fast response, user customization, interactivity, compatibility, and quality hardcopies are all design goals. If you have ideas for content or enhancements that would be useful to you or if you run into any problems, please let me know.

Registration and tournament packets are nearing completion. Registration packets will be mailed to club directors and team reps (use the form on the OVR website if you need a packet and aren't on our list from last season). Tournament packets will be distributed online. The *2003 Juniors' Tournament Packet* is vastly expanded: Tom Kohl really went the extra mile to make hosting juniors' tournaments easier than ever.

Electronic registration is on track for this fall. Two main goals inspired us to acquiring better information in a more usable form. First, it will open the door for a number of expanded services throughout the season. Second, we anticipate saving time for everyone concerned: club directors, tournament hosts, and OVR staff. Look for our simple, secure e-registration facility on www.ovr.org in October. Traditional paper registration remains an option, but give e-registration a try: it's the way to go in the long term.

In cooperation with Bill Zehler, we will conduct application for sanction of juniors' tryouts electronically this season. Doing so will ensure that we have all necessary information to process your requests rapidly and to publicize your tryouts effectively.

The *2003 OVR Handbook* is scheduled for publication on or about November 1. A significant revision of last year's *Handbook*, the 2003 edition will be a valuable resource for all members of the OVR. Please read the sections pertaining to your types of involvement in the Ohio Valley Region.

Shortly we'll have available a flyer promoting the Ohio Valley Region. Please help us by circulating copies of that flyer to your local volleyball leagues and open gyms. Even though our overall membership is healthy and growing, it remains essential to reach potential players and officials: recent college graduates, individuals new to the area, and those who simply haven't heard of the OVR and its many opportunities.

As always, there's more on the horizon than I can describe in this space. The best advice is to watch our website for news of all aspects of the OVR. Newsletters are valuable for unifying related announcements, providing lasting recognition, and communicating important information through a medium that people can print and read comfortably, but that's a quite different purpose from the immediacy of web-based communication.

I wish you a successful and rewarding 2003 season in the Ohio Valley Region.

Nick Nystrom
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For 2003...

- New website design
- E-registration
- Online application for sanction of jrs' tryouts
- Improved registration and tournament packets
- OVR Handbook 2003
- New promotional flyer
- Improved handling of juniors' tournament results and standings
- Improved updating and reporting for coaches' and club directors' certifications
- Improved e-registration for clinics and other OVR events
- ... (watch our website!)